

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Security Administration
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TO: FSA and Home Supervisors
Copy to: State Directors, District and Area Supervisors
FROM: Pendleton M. Jackson, Information Specialist *PMJ*
SUBJECT: Suggested Radio Material

At the planning and policy conference at Raleigh July 15-19 Regional Director J. B. Slack emphasized that wherever there is an FO farm in this region located in a Soil Conservation Service district, it will be our policy to bring that family into the SCS program, and the same is true to the extent feasible with respect to RR families who are owner-operators. FSA is as much concerned with soil conservation as the SCS and there is no reason why the programs should not be linked on farms, he said.

Following are two radio scripts from Murrell S. Rapp, Middlebourne, W. Va. entitled "SCS and FSA Work Together" and "Farming Is A Way Of Life", that illustrate how instances of this cooperation can be used to promote educational interest and public relations. These scripts could be adapted for use in most any instance where FSA and SCS have a working relationship. This type of material could be used with other agency representatives with whom FSA supervisors work.

SCS and FSA Work Together

WWVA 6:45 A.M.

Jane - Good Morning, friends. This is your tri-state farm and home news program.

For years we have been listening to representatives of the various agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture, who would speak of their individual agency's work. This morning, we have representatives from two of these different agencies, who will tell how they work together to help make the farm a better way of life. We have with us this morning James C. Cox, District Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service and Murrell S. Rapp, FSA Supervisor of the Farm Security Administration. Good morning, gentlemen:

Cox & Rapp - Good morning, Jane.

Jane - I think most of our listeners know what the Farm Security and Soil Conservation Service do as individual agencies, but just how do they work together for the benefit of the farmer?

Rapp - I think that's a very good question, Jane, and it can best be answered after Mr. Cox and I have first stated the major objectives of Farm Security and Soil Conservation. You start off, Mr. Cox, by stating the objective of the Soil Conservation Service.

(O V E R)

Cox - To me, the main objective of the Soil Conservation Service is to control erosion on the land by means of using it as based on its capabilities as shown by soil survey - by use of mechanical devices, such as strip cropping, diversions, outlets, drainage, etc., and by maintaining a better cover such as grasses and legumes, or trees; and by building up the productivity of the soil by use of lime, fertilizer and organic matter.

Jane - Let's repeat that, Mr. Cox - You said objective of the Soil Conservation Service is to control erosion on the land - and that can be accomplished in three ways: First, mechanical devices such as strip cropping on the contour, diversions, drainage, etc.; Second, by maintaining a cover on the land such as grass, legumes, or trees; and Third, by building up the fertility of the soil by use of lime, fertilizer and organic matter. That pretty well covers the functions of your service, Mr. Cox - and important ones they are, too. Now, Murrell, just what are the objectives of the Farm Security Administration?

Rapp - The main objective of the Farm Security Administration is to help the small farmer with low income to raise his standard of living by adopting and using better farm and home practices - raising and conserving more food on the farm for the family, and in order to help the family accomplish these goals, Farm Security extends credit to enable the family to carry out these farm and home practices.

Jane - To summarize, then, the objectives of Farm Security are helping the small, low income farmer find a better way of life on the farm, through increased income and better living from the farm, by putting into use better farming practices - and this is accomplished by furnishing the necessary credit along with the assistance given in planning and developing a sound farm and home program.

Cox - Here in West Virginia over 65 per cent of our farmers earned less than \$600.00 gross income per year back in 1940, according to the census taken then. One of the main reasons why their income was so low was because of the fact that their soil was so badly depleted.

Rapp - You're right, there, Mr. Cox! Unwise use of the soil for generations past has left it in such a poor condition that it has now become hard for many families to make a comfortable, or even adequate, living from the farm. Yet we have had many farmers who have had a very low income in the past who have materially increased that income, by using good soil practices. The soil is the foundation of mankind. Our very existence depends on it. Recognition of this fact has been the keystone to the success the Farm Security Administration has had in helping farm families raise their standards of living.

Cox - Many of the cooperating farmers in the Upper Ohio Valley Soil Conservation District are FSA borrowers. This was brought about by the two organizations getting together and recognizing the common problems of a majority of the farmers with whom we work - and that was the condition of their soil.

Rapp - That is true, Mr. Cox, many Farm Security families are SCS co-operators. You know that an FSA family has a farm plan developed for his farm, when he receives his loan. No farm plan is complete without provisions for good soil management.

Cox - And in working with FSA borrowers it has been your aim to have a complete soil conservation plan worked out on their farms for as many as possible, which better enables them to carry out the good livestock program that goes into the making of a complete farm plan.

Rapp - It is our goal to have the SCS work out a complete soil plan for every farm owner who borrows money from the FSA and for as many tenants as can secure equitable leasing arrangements to compensate them for any improvement that they might make to the farm. We try to give tenant farmers special help in securing a fair and just leasing arrangement whereby they can feel secure in building up the soil, rather than running it down, as many have done in the past.

Cox - Tenant farming is a national problem. Over 40% of the farms in the United States are operated by farm tenants. Poor leasing arrangements have not given the tenants any incentive to improve their soil. As a consequence, they have resorted to cash crops - with little or no regard to future production. As a result, erosion has taken its toll of the soil, and the tenant farmers' plight has in many cases become desperate, because many one-time good farms, which they operate, will no longer afford a living.

Rapp - If the tenant farmer has an opportunity to secure a lease that would compensate him for any improvement made on the farm, in case he is forced to move, or the landlord would help the tenant make improvements on the farm by sharing the cost, much of this soil depletion due to cash crop farming would be eliminated - the tenant would be better off, and the landlord would be preserving his investment by maintaining or increasing the value of his farm. Many landlords in our section are recognizing this fact, and in such cases, we are urging these tenant farmers to have a complete SCS plan worked out on their farm.

Cox - We are always glad to have Farm Security Administration families as SCS Cooperators, Murrell, because FSA does set up the funds in a loan for them to participate to the fullest extent in our program. A farm will not make money unless the farmer is willing to invest money in it to improve it, or at least maintain the fertility of the soil. The Soil Conservation Service often has cooperators who would do much more toward building up their soil if they had the money to do so - and there is where the Farm Security Administration can and does help the SCS - they can provide funds to enable a farmer to carry on to his maximum ability.

Rapp - Yes, Mr. Cox, the Farm Security Administration can step in and lend a farmer money to carry on an improvement program, when he needs the cash to do so and can not secure adequate credit elsewhere. It has been our experience that soil improvement and loans are the soundest investments that can be made. They will return the largest and quickest dividend of any investment a farmer can make, when he uses the money to follow out a sound Soil Conservation Service Plan.

Cox - We will prove that statement, conclusively, on the Tri-State Farm and Home Program at 12:15 this afternoon over this station when we relate the experience of two Tyler County FSA borrowers who followed a good Soil Conservation program and made it pay. Our listeners should be sure to tune in on that program. The two farmers we are going to tell about are former tenant farmers, who borrowed money from Farm Security to buy their own farm - and borrowed additional money to carry out a good soil improvement program as worked out cooperatively by the Soil Conservation Service and the Farm Security Administration with the farmer.

Jane - Thank you Mr. Cox and Mr. Rapp. We do want to urge our listeners to tune in this afternoon at 12:15 to your Tri-State Farm and Home Hour when Mr. Cox of the Soil Conservation Service and Mr. Rapp of the Farm Security Administration will again be with us to tell the actual experience story of two Tyler County farmers who made a good Soil Conservation Plan pay big dividends.

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FARMING IS A WAY OF LIFE

WWVA - 12:15 PM

ANNCR: Tri-State farm friends, who were tuned in to our Farm News Program at 6:45 this morning, heard Murrell S. Rapp, Farm Security Administration Supervisor and James Cox, District Conservationist, of the Soil Conservation Service, promise to tell an actual success story of FSA and SCS working together. Well, here they are and I see Mr. Rapp has some figures jotted down on a piece of paper. Do those figures tell the story of big dividends you mentioned this morning, Murrell?

RAPP: I think they do, Jane - in fact I believe anyone would agree that an increase of income on the same farm from around \$500 to \$2400 a year in a short space of time, is worth hearing about.

ANNCR: You mean that actually happened in Tyler County?

COX: It has happened more than once. In going over the records, Murrell, I found that in all cases, farm income and the life of the family definitely improved when Farm Security Administration families followed a Soil Conservation program.

RAPP: It really would not have made a great deal of difference which family we told about - however Mr. Cox and I selected two families whose gains parallel, although they had different problems to solve. Back in 1939, when Brady Michael applied to Farm Security Administration for a farm ownership loan, the farm he intended to buy was one on which a mortgage was being foreclosed, and had not been farmed for 20 years.

COX: Well, any farmer knows what condition land would be in, that hadn't been farmed for that length of time.

RAPP: "Jungle" describes it as well as any word I can think of - it was all underbrush and trees. There was nothing to do but start to clear the ground, arrange the fields in such a way that the most level land was used for cropping, while steeper slopes were used for pasture and woods land. The fences were laid out on the contour to make it easy for Mr. Michaels to follow a strip cropping program.

It goes without saying that Brady wasn't able to get all this accomplished the first year - he was busy raising enough to feed his family and livestock.

COX: Murrell, if you'll give me that list I'll read our listeners what the Michaels' farm was able to produce in 1940 and you tell them what it produced this past year.

RAPP: O. K. here's the 1940 record.

COX: Let's look at the crops first - 3/4 acre of potatoes.

RAPP: That yielded about 75 bushels in 1940. This year, Brady raised 225 bushels of potatoes on 1 acre.

COX: Corn - 5 acres - 35 bushels per acre.

RAPP: Corn - 8 acres with a yield of 65 bushels per acre.

COX: 5 acres of soybeans. 4 acres of meadow.

RAPP: The soybeans were used in 1940 as an emergency hay crop. The 4 acres of meadow produced less than a ton of hay per acre. Now since the land has been cleared and by carefully following a soil conservation plan which specified that he lime and fertilize the land to test, Brady has a good stand of Alfalfa on 9-3/4 acres, and in addition to this he has 11 acres of good quality mixed legume hay. For 1945 this produced over 2 tons of fine legume hay per acre, as against the scant ton of low quality hay per acre produced in 1940.

COX: The "proof of the pudding" in good soil conservation practices is shown by those increases in crop yields on the Michaels' farm in the past five years.

RAPP: Back in 1940 Brady had to resort to cutting feed on other farms to feed his livestock. But now, his own farm produces enough to feed even the increased number of cattle he owns.

COX: Just to run over those figures for 1940 - he had 5 milk cows, 8 beef cows, 3 calves, 1 brood sow and 2 horses.

RAPP: For 1945 the list reads: 7 milk cows, 8 beef cows, 7 calves, 1 brood sow and 2 horses or 25 head now to 19, five years ago. Of course numbers don't tell the whole story because better feed means higher production of milk and a better quality of market cattle.

COX: Which all adds up to the jump in income from \$500 to \$2400 on one farm in five years. And I expect that increased income shows up in his payments on his Farm Security loan doesn't it, Murrell?

RAPP: That's right - the Michaels FSA payments are ahead of schedule. The same is true of the other family I wanted to tell our listeners about. L. H. Ripley in 5 years has repaid over a third of a 40-year loan.

COX: The Ripley farm also was in a low state of fertility when the Farm Security Administration stepped in to help the Ripleys buy a farm and build it up.

RAPP: Yes, I can truthfully say that farm had about the best crop of broom sedge in Tyler County.

- COX: One would never know it to see the alfalfa and clover meadows and blue grass pastures Ripley has today. Sixty acres of his 287-acre farm was laid off for strip cropping by the Soil Conservation Service and the FSA, and Ripley has followed his soil conservation program religiously for the past five years.
- RAPP: And more than doubled his crops by doing so - and here again increased feed has meant being able to raise more and better grade of livestock. In 1940 Ripley had 23 livestock units, while today he owns 33 units.
- COX: The figures I have here show the income from this farm was \$527 in 1940 - \$2138 in 1944, and there is every indication that it will top \$2400 for this year. I believe Murrell, that this should be proof to anyone that following soil conservation methods pays in dollars and cents in a short space of time.
- RAPP: The Farm Security Administration recognizes that fact Mr. Cox and in each farm plan especially prepared the FSA and Home Management Supervisors urge the farmer to include money to carry out a good soil conservation plan. It's a safeguard to a good investment.

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"A Farm Of Their Own" is a special broadcast prepared by Frances Fox of the Washington IF Division for use over WSJS, Winston-Salem, N. C. on July 29. It is a 20-minute script. While it is unlikely that you will have a broadcast subject exactly like this one, there are similar cases of FSA loans to veterans, and this script makes an excellent pattern to follow. Much of the actual wording could be used.

"A FARM OF THEIR OWN"

("Piedmont Farm Program", 12 o'clock noon, July 29, 1946, with Harvey Dinkins, Director; Ralph Slate, veteran now farming near Kernersville, N. C.; Dora Slate, his wife; Lucy Booe, FSA Associate County Supervisor for Stokes and Forsyth counties; and Ben White, FSA County Supervisor for Forsyth County.)

DINKINS: As you know, friends, thousands of boys in the armed forces used to dream about owning a farm some day when the war was over, and they could come home. In spite of obstacles, that dream has come true for a good many veterans. One of them lives right here in Forsyth County, and he and his attractive wife are here in our studio today to be on our program....Before I introduce them, I want to say that this is the regular quarterly time for Pomona Grange to be on the air, but Pomona invited the local FSA folks to broadcast in their place. Miss Lucy Booe and Mr. Ben White of the office here responded by asking Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Slate of Kernersville to be our special guests today....I believe Mr. Slate was the first returning soldier in the county to be granted a Farm Security loan to buy his own farm. Right, Mr. White

WHITE: 'First one, and the only one so far. Ralph was not only the first veteran in the county, but he was also the first one in this part of the State to get such a loan.

DINKINS: That's interesting...And how are you today, Miss Booe....Say, didn't I see you at that Grange meeting here this spring? I believe you took your national degree in the Grange the same time I did.

BOOE: Yes, I did. I'm a Grange member...and so is the chairman of our FSA County Committee - Mr. Howard Robertson. Mr. Robertson, as you know of course, is our Pomona Grange master.

WHITE: Mr. Dinkins, we very much appreciate Pomona's invitation to us to put on this program today. I'd like especially to thank Miss Hunter, the Grange's very efficient young Lecturer, for helping us plan the broadcast. And it isn't just Pomona we're grateful to. Our Regional Director, Mr. J. B. Slack, was saying just the other day that the North Carolina state Grange is one of FSA's best friends!

DINKINS: I'm glad to hear that, Ben.....Well, Mr. Slate, it's nice to see you again - you and your wife too. I remember visiting you on your new farm, right after you bought it this spring. In fact, I remember we took some pictures of you and your place and wrote you up in the newspaper.... How are you getting along these days?

RALPH: O.K. I think. 'Keep mighty busy!

DINKINS: How about you, Mrs. Slate? Can you take things easy while Ralph works?

DORA: No, indeed! This is a busy time for all of us.

DINKINS: Let's see, this is probably tobacco-stringing time for you.....

RALPH: Yes, we've been going out early in the morning and staying in the field till after sundown.

DINKINS: "From can-see to can't-see", I believe they call that.

RALPH: Dora helps me whenever she can. So do her dad and my dad. Then I help them in return.

DINKINS: Well, it's nice you can swap work like that...But tell me - how about that youngster of yours, Dora? Is he too little to help?

DORA: Oh, he's only a year old and hasn't been walking long. But I think we're bringing him up right. We often take him with us to the field, and I expect he takes a lesson watching us work.

DINKINS: But aren't you afraid he'll get lost out there somewhere, under a big tobacco leaf or something?

DORA: No, because we have a little crib for him. We carry along a little homemade crib that must be around 50 years old. Somebody in the family made it, and I reckon 15 or 20 children used it before Gary did.

DINKINS: Ralph, did your mother take you to the tobacco patch when you were little?

RALPH: I'm afraid I can't remember that far back. But I know that baby crib has been to the tobacco patch so often it could almost get there by itself.

DINKINS: 'Have a pretty good crop this year?

RALPH: Yes, a good crop - better than I expected. We have about 6 acres in tobacco.

DINKINS: What else are you raising?

RALPH: About 6 acres of corn. Then I have around 8 acres of lespedeza hay. I already put up about 5 acres of oats.

DINKINS: 'Still got that good team of horses?

RALPH: You bet I do! I couldn't do without them!

DINKINS: How about trading them for a nice tractor?

RALPH: No sir! Maybe some day but not now. I couldn't make a tractor pay for itself on my place, yet.

DINKINS: Just how big a farm is it you have?

RALPH: It's about 75 acres - good land too.

DINKINS: Seventy-five acres of good land...And in an area where last year more bright leaf tobacco was sold commercially than on any other market in the world....'You realize that? How did you happen to settle down here in Forsyth County anyway? 'Born here?

RALPH: No, I was born over next door in Stokes County. But my family moved here 10 or 12 years ago. Dora's folks live in this county, too. We're all neighbors.

DINKINS: Could all that have had anything to do with you hearing about this nice little farm for sale so close by?

RALPH: Yes, I knew it was for sale but I didn't think I could get it. Some other people were trying to buy it, and I didn't have the money anyway.

DINKINS: Well, what happened? You got the farm.

WHITE: Maybe I can explain that if you let me interrupt you a minute, Mr. Dinkins.

DINKINS: Go right ahead, Ben.

WHITE: I'm afraid Ralph might be a little too modest to tell the whole story. Actually, the place had been owned by an elderly couple who died, and their heirs wanted to sell. They doubtless could have got more money from somebody else, but they seemed to "take a liking" to Ralph; and they were anxious for him to have it, partly because he was a returning serviceman... Our FSA County Committee liked Ralph too - 'thought he had what it took to make a good farmer, so they approved him for a farm ownership loan.

DINKINS: 'Seems you go around making good impressions on people, Young man! But I guess your farm background and experience helped. Farming, like most other occupations, offers the most to the folks who know something about it.

RALPH: Yes, Dora and I both grew up on farms and we always liked farm life. I worked with my father until I went in the army in 1942. I was 20 then.

DINKINS: What did you do in the army?

RALPH: I was a mechanic in the Air Corps most of the time.

DINKINS: Well, you can't run an army without good mechanics. 'Like machinery?

RALPH: Very much. And it's a good thing to know on a farm too, because you never know when you'll have to fix a piece of machinery that goes haywire.

DINKINS: Mr. White, you look like you have something you want to say there.

WHITE: I'd like for Ralph to tell you about the "bad break" he got soon after his loan was approved.

DINKINS: Bad break? I was thinking he got a mighty good break - getting to buy a place of his own right off the bat, and not having to wait years like some fellows. What do you mean - bad break?

RALPH: I guess he means my broken arm. I broke my arm right after I got my horses. 'Believe it was the week after you were out to see us, Mr. Dinkins.

DINKINS: That was bad luck!

RALPH: It was my good right arm too....But then, I'm lefthanded, so it could have been worse.

DINKINS: Yes, in that case your right arm was the right one to break - if you had to break either one. I'm sorry it happened.

WHITE: You know, Mr. Dinkins, as soon as Ralph broke his arm, I was sure he was going to make good at farming.

DINKINS: How come - why do you say that?

WHITE: Well, right after that accident, some of his neighbors decided to go over and saw and chop some wood for him. He didn't even have enough wood then to keep the house warm. And guess how many men went over to help him that day.

DINKINS: Oh, eight or ten maybe.

WHITE: Twenty-one! And those fellows really worked, what I mean! Why, they sawed and cut up enough wood to last a year - to use in the house and also to cure the boy's tobacco! There were even some logs left over to build him a shed.

DINKINS: Now I see what you're driving at...If a man has that many good friends and neighbors when trouble comes, he's bound to do all right... But there's another thing I'd figure on Ben, if I was sizing up a farmer's chances to succeed. That's what kind of a wife he has!

WHITE: Ralph is all set on that score too! And you don't have to take my word for it!

DINKINS: What are you blushing about, Dora? Did you know you were going to be a farmer's wife when you married Ralph?

DORA: Oh, yes, that was "in the bargain". I like living on a farm.

DINKINS: Do you find much to do? I wouldn't think keeping house for three people would take all your time.

DORA: But I do a lot else besides keep house.

DINKINS: You mean, like working in the tobacco crop as you've been doing?

DORA: That, and other things. Ralph and I've been spending our spare time fixing up the house. I just finished painting my new built-in kitchen cabinets last week. They're real pretty, and they're all mine too!

BOOE: She did a good job of painting them, Mr. Dinkins, if I may put in a word here. Dora's a good housekeeper and I think she's going to have a nice house when a few more improvements are made.

DINKINS: Tell me, Miss Booe, you all include money in your farm loans to make home improvements, don't you?

BOOE: Yes, we do. A farm ownership loan not only can cover 100 per cent of the purchase price of a farm - without a down-payment - but can include the cost of repairs or improvements too. Fortunately the little six-room bungalow the Slates moved into, didn't need a great deal of work done on it. But some must be done, and they're planning to do it - or have it done - as fast as they get around to it.

DINKINS: 'Got all your furniture yet, Mrs. Slate?

DORA: Not all, we're getting a little at a time - adding a few pieces along as we can afford it. Just now I'm waiting for my new kitchen sink.

DINKINS: Good! Does that mean you have running water in the house?

DORA: Not yet, but we plan to have it put in this fall. I want a washing machine then too. Ralph has promised me one even before we get a car.

DINKINS: Say, I think a man is pretty thoughtful if he's willing to buy his wife a washing machine before he gets a car - that is, if you can get a car. How about a refrigerator? Or do you not have electricity in your house yet?

DORA: We have electricity all right, but it may be quite awhile before we can get a refrigerator. There are so many things we need - I want an electric iron and a pressure canner too. But I realize we can't be in too big a hurry. We can't do everything the first year, and we've been on the farm only about six months.

BOOE: Mr. Dinkins, the Slates are operating on a little "five year plan" you might be interested in.

DINKINS: What's that, Miss Booe? Tell us about it.

BOOE: Well, they started out this year on a rather small scale, with just the first essentials you might say. But they expect to make improvements on the place, and add and expand their farm operations a little each year until around about 1950, they'll be all set up!

DINKINS: 'Sounds like a good idea. Suppose you explain a little more.

BOOE: 'Take home improvement - they plan to gradually re-arrange their native shrubbery around the yard, and build some storage places....Then for food, this year, they have a small garden, a hog to butcher, and a few laying hens. Next year they plan to have a bigger garden, two hogs to butcher, a larger flock of hens, and some frying chickens. They'll raise more chickens as fast as they can grow the grain to feed them. Feed is too scarce and high to buy.

DINKINS: Good enough! I'd like to drop in one day when they're having fried chicken..... Mmmmmmmmm-mm-mm-mm!

BOOE: If you did, you might also be served a big dish of strawberries and whipped cream for dessert - because the Slates have a good milk cow and they're expecting to set out 250 strawberry plants this fall. The strawberries are part of a small orchard they're starting in a few weeks - with apples, pears, peaches and cherries.

DINKINS: You're making me hungry...I think we better change the subject.

BOOE: Well, before you do, I'd just like to mention that Dora is already doing some canning. She plans to put up about 200 quarts of fruits and vegetables this year. That's all she'll need with her year-around garden, and with storing some potatoes and root vegetables.

DINKINS: Tell me, Dora, with everything else you do, do you know anything about sewing?

DORA: I make my own clothes and the baby's things, and of course I do the mending for all three of us.

DINKINS: 'Seems to me all you need is a 48-hour day!

BOOE: She hasn't told you everything, Mr. Dinkins. She's also the "family bookkeeper", and keeps neat and accurate records.

DINKINS: You FSA folks believe in your borrowers keeping records, don't you? Every year when income tax time comes around, I wish somebody had made me keep records....Let's see, Mrs. Slate you cook, can, sew, keep house, take care of the baby, tend the chickens, work in the garden, keep the books, and no telling what else!.....Ralph, what do you do besides farm?

RALPH: Well, I don't have much time for anything else, but I do go to night school.

DINKINS: Night school! What for?

RALPH: To study agriculture.

DINKINS: A farmer studying farming?

RALPH: Sure. I'm doing it under the G.I. Bill.

DINKINS: Well, where do you go?

RALPH: Over to Walkertown. The Vocational Agriculture instructor teaches the class.

DINKINS: I see. Then I'll bet you'll be glad when summer is over so you won't have to work so hard.

RALPH: But I'm going this winter too. It's a four-year course. I like it and I think it's doing me a lot of good.

DINKINS: A four-year night course in Agriculture. You've really set yourself an ambitious program, boy...But I'm sure it's worth it..Now going back a minute to you buying this farm. Did you really have any idea when you were in the army that you would step right out of a uniform into a pair of overalls, and soon be running your own farm?

RALPH: No sir, I didn't. It never entered my head. I'd thought about it a lot, and I reckon I had wanted to farm ever since I was a kid. But I sure didn't expect to own a farm so soon.

DINKINS: How did you hear about Farm Security?

RALPH: Through the Veterans Administration. A Mr. Turner here told me to go to the FSA county office if I wanted to farm, so I went to see Mr. White. I figured I didn't have anything to lose by asking what my chances were. Then I was surprised when Mr. White said I could probably get a loan if I could get a farm.

DINKINS: So you located this farm, and Mr. White went to work on the loan for you. 'That right, Ben?

WHITE: That's about the way it was. I talked to the people who owned the place, and tried to get them to let Ralph have it. Then I had the County Committeemen go out and look it over. All of them agreed it was worth the price Ralph would have to pay for it.

DINKINS: You all try to be sure a farm will pay out for your borrowers, don't you - before you let them buy? You don't want anybody saddled with a debt he can't pay off, at least some day.

WHITE: No, we don't want a farm to become a millstone around a family's neck. We have to be convinced that a farm can earn enough money to pay for itself over a period of years, and at the same time make a good living for the family. It must be worth the money - not only at today's prices but at tomorrow's prices too. We do our best to steer clear of farms at inflated values.

DINKINS: Then I guess you have to steer clear of a good many. Doesn't that slow down your business of helping veterans?

WHITE: It does that all right. We have thousands more qualified applicants than there are farms to be had at fair prices.

DINKINS: So it's not because you don't have the money to loan. It's just that there aren't enough sound value farms to meet the demand...You probably have hundreds of requests right here in North Carolina that you can't fill.

WHITE: I'm sorry to say, we do. So far FSA has been able to make only about 40 loans to veterans in this state to buy farms. But that's more than some states - because for the United States as a whole, we've been able to make fewer than 2,000. But nearly 30,000 boys have applied.....For the coming year, Congress has appropriated enough money for us to make around 23,000 loans to individual family-type farmers and World War II veterans to buy farms and operate farms.

DINKINS: 'If they can find farms to buy or rent, I suppose. But tell me a little about these farm operating loans. You probably make a lot of them.

WHITE: Yes, in fact this year we ran out of money for awhile because so many people needed them. If a veteran or a farmer can find a place to rent or sharecrop, and is qualified, we can loan him money to buy livestock, machinery, feed, seed, fertilizer, and other supplies. We've made about 18,000 loans of this kind so far to World War II veterans - nearly 400 right here in North Carolina. For the country as a whole, the loans total up something like \$28,000,000.

DINKINS: That's a lot of money...I'd think for veterans especially, the supervision angle of your program would be important. Ben.

WHITE: It is. The on-the-farm guidance that goes along with our credit seems to appeal to the boys. We start a fellow from the beginning, and help him make a kind of farm plan. This plan usually includes the number of acres to be planted to different crops; the number and kind of livestock to be handled; soil conservation practices to be followed, and so on. Of course, there's a home angle too, but right now I'm talking only about the farm side...Then when the veteran starts to farm, we keep in touch with him to follow his progress and help him if he runs into a snag.

DINKINS: How about that, Ralph? Do you think supervision helps you?

RALPH: I certainly do. I felt pretty rusty at farming when I got out of the army. Farming conditions had changed a good deal, and I knew I was behind the times. Mr. White and my Vocational Agriculture teacher are helping me catch up on what I missed...Then you mentioned about soil conservation. Mr. White brought out the soil conservation man to my place, and they helped me do some work on my farm before I ever moved on it.

DINKINS: I guess Miss Booc helps your wife whenever you all need her.

RALPH: Yes, she's been a mighty good friend to us, in every way she can.

DINKINS: So you really think you can run this farm now, and make it pay out?

RALPH: I do. The loan runs for 40 years - at 3 per cent - if I want to take that long, but I'm sure I can finish it a lot sooner. I'm on a plan that lets me pay more in good years and less in bad.

DINKINS: That's called a "variable payment" plan. With it, if you have a crop failure or something, you don't get behind. Yet you can pay as far in advance as you like...Well Ralph, I believe I have just one more question to ask you...Whatever happened to that little two-room cabin out on your place - sort of behind your house at the far corner of your back yard? I noticed it when I was at your farm in March, and wondered about it.

RALPH: It's still there, but it's occupied now. It's so hard for people to find a place to live these days that I'm letting a man and his wife live in it till they can do better. He's a veteran too.

DINKINS: Well, what do you know about that! A veteran helping a veteran find a place to live - right in his own backyard! That's generosity for you.... It's been mighty good having you folks with us today on this monthly Grange program - you, Miss Booe and Mr. White of the Farm Security Administration; and you - Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Slate who're making such a fine start in farming here in Forsyth County. We hope the experiences you've told us about today may help some other veterans who want to farm!

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"Clean-Up and Fix Up" was presented over WAJR, Morgantown, W. Va. by Mrs. Camolla Murphy, HM, and three FSA homemakers. The most outstanding thing in the script is the enthusiasm these homemakers revealed in relating their clean-up fix-up activities. Enthusiasm is catching. There are ideas in this script that you can use.

CLEAN-UP AND FIX-UP

ANNCR: Farm Security is on the air.

MUSIC:

MURPHY: Has your community set a definite date for Clean-up Week? How can you help in this program. Can you influence your family and neighbors to clean-up, or fix-up?

ANNCR: Disease, accidents and fires, lurk in many places on the farm. Rubbish, trash, mosquito breeding puddles, rat-infested buildings, broken stairs, chuck-holed farm driveways, wire and nail cluttered barnyards, ladders with a missing rung or two, faulty flues and faulty wiring often cause trouble. Dry grass and weeds near farm buildings, gasoline or kerosene improperly stored, poorly grounded lightening rods, attics filled with paper and other odds and ends add to the hazards. Cleaning up not only helps prevent accident and disease----it increases the beauty and value of property. So keep that dial right there and listen to Mrs. Carmella M. Murphy, Home Supervisor for the Farm Security Administration for Monongalia and Marion counties, as she holds a clean-up fix-up discussion with some of the farm housewives with whom she works.

MURPHY: Folks, it's serious when we realize that over 17,000 farm residents are killed and approximately a million and a half are injured in accidents each year on farms.

RICHARDSON: That sounds like a dangerous occupation.

MURPHY: It is. There are more accidents on farms than in any other occupation.

WHETZEL: What about fires? We once lost a farm home that way. The only reason the barn didn't burn with it was that it was a good ways from the house.

MURPHY: Statistics show that farm fires destroy about \$90,000,000 worth of farm property each year. On the average of around ten lives are lost in farm fires every day. So this is a very important subject, and anything that a person can do to help lower such appalling figures would be something to his credit.

GROSS: We have tried to do one thing this year that would help make our yard more sanitary, and less dangerous as far as diseases are concerned.

MURPHY: I want you to tell the rest of the group about that, Mrs. Gross. Mrs. Gross is from Core, W. Va., and by the way, she remodeled her kitchen this year.

GROSS: Well, like a lot of farm families, we didn't have a kitchen sink. We had one, but it had never been put in. When we remodeled our kitchen, of course we put in the sink which I had bought several years ago for \$3. We used to throw the water out the door at times, because the bucket we kept to put waste water in seemed to get full so quickly, that before you know it, someone was throwing the water out the door and into the yard. That sink has certainly saved me many, many steps.

MURPHY: No accurate information is available on deaths and disease caused by insanitary water supply, trash, etc. However, there is ample evidence that these conditions are a distinct menace to rural health. We have been trying to get the people who participate in the Farm Security Administration program to put in a kitchen sink. In fact, one of our yearly goals is that every family we work with have a kitchen sink of some kind. It does not have to be a cabinet type sink. As long as it carries off the waste water and is of the proper working height for the homemaker, we feel that much will help the housewife immensely.

GROSS: I'll certainly add my little voice of approval to that. If you ladies don't have a sink, you will never be sorry you kept after your family to get one.

MURPHY: I'm certainly glad all of you here have kitchen sinks. Mrs. Richardson, you did a nice job this spring at your place. Tell the group about cleaning up at your house.

RICHARDSON: I live a little beyond Stewartstown on a farm that we purchased this spring with the help of the Farm Security Administration. Things had been let go around the yard and house, since the farmer we bought from had no homemaker. When we moved in, we spent one week cleaning up, fixing up, and carrying away stuff that had piled up for years. Behind the kitchen was a handy place to throw old cans, bottles, and other trash. There was a six foot pile back there. We hauled off all of that. The tin cans and other articles that retained water made an excellent breeding place for mosquitoes. We also found three different puddles around the yard, that water seemed to stand in. We drained and filled them to prevent fly and mosquito breeding places.

MURPHY: After all the cleaning had been done, they sprayed different spots around with DDT. I thought that was a very worthwhile thing to do. It is a fact that the army has rid entire islands of flies and mosquitoes by using modern methods of sanitation. For instance, I have heard that on the Island of Peleliu there were swarms of mosquitoes and flies when the landing was first made. By the use of modern control methods, the army reduced these pests until they were practically negligible.

WHETZEL: Would you mind mentioning a few of the modern methods of controlling insects, Mrs. Murphy?

MURPHY: I'd be glad to, Mrs. Whetzel. Modern control measures include: (1) Elimination of breeding places, (2) Elimination of sources of food for insects, (3) Keeping insects away from diseases so that they won't carry germs to individuals, (4) Killing the adult or larva stage of the insect, and, (5) Protecting healthy individuals from such pests.

MURPHY: And, now, Mrs. Whetzel--when you moved to your farm on Stewart's Run you called on the Health Department for some help. Will you tell us what they did for you?

WHETZEL: We bought our farm two years ago with the help of the Farm Security Administration and started into the dairy business. Well, I knew if our water supply was not safe, the bacteria count in our milk would go sky high. Therefore, we had the County Health Department test our water supply. It was O.K. and, of course, that was one less thing to worry about.

MURPHY: They will perform that service if you ask them to check it for you and it will cost you nothing. Springs, wells, and cisterns should be checked to see that no surface water gets in. Pure, safe water is one thing every family in the nation should have for protection against disease.

WHETZEL: We also like to keep the manure pile away from the barn.

MURPHY: That's a good idea, Mrs. Whetzel, because manure is one of the best breeding places for flies that we have. Did you folks know that manure will lose a great amount of its value if allowed to stand in piles in the weather?

WHETZEL: Manure will help produce most any plant that grows. Mrs. Whetzel's garden spot has been improved 100% by the use of manure. Now, I'm going to ask each of you to name one thing you can do to clean up rubbish and litter.

GROSS: We can clean the yards and fields of broken glass, barbed wire, nail-studded boards and other dangerous litter.

MURPHY: Good. When little Charlie or Mary cuts his or her foot, it can be very serious. Then there is always a waste of time. Going to the doctor, extra expense, etc.

RICHARDSON: Things should always be put away, and not left in the barnyard for someone to stumble over. Broken machinery or tools especially.

MURPHY: What about oil or paint-soaked rags?

WHETZEL: It's wise to put them in a covered metal can, to avoid fires. Speaking of fires; closets, basements, and attics should be free from loose or piled paper.

MURPHY: Those points are all good and if we kept them in mind every day, we wouldn't need a so-called spring clean-up week.

RICHARDSON: Since most of us aren't too careful it is a very good idea to see about these things once a year, at least. I'm going to get our club to sponsor a clean-up week in our section.

MURPHY: That's a good idea. Now that we have discussed Clean-up, let's talk about fix-up. You know there is nothing that makes a farmstead look more dilapidated than a sagging roof, broken down porch, worn out steps, or an untidy lawn. There are many such places all over the country. If people would realize how a little bit of fixing up can improve their surroundings, they would start now to do something about this place called a house, and really make it a home. I'm not saying that you should ask your family to spend a lot of money either.

WHETZEL: I think all of us could be more careful of such things.

MURPHY: Let us concentrate on the fix-up part of this discussion. I heard a very inspiring talk last month at Jackson's Mill by Dr. Brooks who teaches at the University. He said, "People grow to be like the things around them. If homes are attractive, lives will be attractive." To me that statement is as true as the fact that daybreak will follow night. Let's learn that quotation -- "People grow to be like the things around them." You see how important it is to have a clean yard, green grass growing, beautiful flowers blooming. All these beautiful creations of nature can have a great influence on the lives of your children--your family. It is up to us as homemakers to do all in our power to make our homes attractive both inside and out.

RICHARDSON: I think Dr. Brooks is right. Besides, keeping up a pretty yard, it gives the youngsters something to do. They will stay at home more and not get into mischief.

MURPHY: That's absolutely right. When you go along the road and see an old house that hasn't been painted for sometime, with an attractive lawn, flowers, shrubs, etc, you forget the house and its shabbiness. That rich green lawn takes your eye. You notice the tall trees swaying in the breeze, or the climbing white rose, snowball bushes, honeysuckle or ivy. The house is forgotten and the beauty of the surroundings takes first place in your thoughts. Mrs. Gross, you made me pity myself for living in an upstairs apartment. Do you know what it was that you said.

GROSS: No--unless it was the statement I made about planting shrubs and trees wherever we lived.

MURPHY: That's it. She said she had always tried to make her yard look attractive regardless of whether she owned or was renting the property.

GROSS: I've always felt that I should plant flowers and shrubs to help the looks of the place. If we moved someone else could enjoy my plantings. Now that we have our own farm, thanks to Farm Security, I have several things done and of course I try to do more each year.

WHETZEL: How do you find time for all that, Mrs. Gross?

GROSS: Oh, the children help. As long as I can be working with the soil and watching things grow, it makes me happy and I feel satisfied.

MURPHY: This growing, planting, and fixing up idea makes you feel that you belong to the good earth. It makes you feel that you have sprouted some roots into that community in which you live. In other words, you feel you belong somewhere and that place is now home.

RICHARDSON: Sometimes I get pretty worried with the children and all the work that must be done in the 24 hours of the day. If I can get out and hoe or plant I feel rested and peaceful.

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"Challenge of Rural Living" is a one-voice script and may be used by both FSA and HM supervisors if the occasion arises. The time is 8 minutes for average delivery. The script originated in Region I. It will be necessary to rehearse carefully before delivery, and punctuate according to your style of delivery.

CHALLENGE OF RURAL LIVING

ANNCR: Ladies and gentlemen, at this time it is our pleasure to present Mr. _____, County Supervisor of the Farm Security Administration, in a brief talk on the "Challenge of Rural Living".

FSA: Attaining a sense of security and obtaining a good living are two basic challenges which we meet in all walks of life. In addition, the desire to contribute to the world's needs ---to be helpful to our neighbors and to help make the world a better place in which to live --- is a universal challenge to all who are privileged to live in this democracy.

These challenges certainly extend to rural living. There is no group of people who is doing more to help provide food and fiber for all peoples than the farm families of America. There is no group of families who works harder for security and a good living than the farm family.

To obtain security and a good living for one's family and at the same time make a contribution to the world's good, requires a high type of ability. It requires a well organized, adequately equipped and stocked, and well managed family type of farm. It requires knowledge of good farm and home practices and ability to carry them out. It requires good health and a strong urge to do!

Frequently people have underestimated the money, time and energy costs of setting up and keeping in operation the food production plants found on family-type farms. There was a time when about the only assistance available to a farm family, outside of its own labor, was the help which the neighbor could give.

There is, however, developing in this country a definite recognition of the fact that the problems of the rural family -- and especially the low income rural families -- are the problems to be faced and shared by not only the next door neighbor, but by the larger community -- by the state and by the nation. The existence of various state and government agencies whose objective is to help farm families meet the challenges of rural living bears positive evidence of this trend.

Through the Farm Security Administration, the citizens of this country have provided a type of assistance for farm families who do not have commercial credit -- a type of assistance which will help make possible the attainment of security and a satisfactory living, and to put them in a position of contributing to the economic program of the world.

Farm families who want to succeed and are willing to cooperate, may obtain loans through this organization for the purchase of feed, seed, equipment, livestock and other items needed in the successful operation of their farm. Families who have shown special ability and have a desire to become farm owners may also obtain real estate loans with which to purchase a family-type farm.

The unique contribution which this program makes to democracy in helping more families become secure and obtain an adequate level of living, as well as an opportunity to contribute to the world's goods, is to be found in the supervisory or guidance phase of the program. Good farm and home management practices, better health, improved morale resulting from interested guidance, often play a more important part in attaining success than the loan itself.

County supervisors and home supervisors help the families to work out a plan for solving the problems which are confronting them. Such problems may have to do with health, or with countless other problems which are interfering with the progress of the family. The family sitting around the table with the supervisors discuss what they have done in the past and what they would like to do in the future, and together they work out a plan for going from where they now are to where they want to be.

Recent production studies made by the United States Department of Agriculture, indicate that low-income farm families as well as other farm families have been able to make a real contribution to the food needs of the world. However, I am not going to talk about how this challenge has been met. It is, however, a thrilling story which will form an important chapter in the war production story of the future.

We find that the home food production program plays an important part, not only in providing a good diet for the family, but in releasing funds which can be used in purchasing other needed living or farm operating items or for making payments on their loans.

What does the home supervisor do in helping families with their home food production program? This will, of course, depend upon the practices which the families have been using and with which they need and desire special assistance. It may have to do with developing a plan for adequate production of the right kinds of food needed for family health. It may be in helping to choose a better garden spot, or working out a plan for the right size garden. It may be advice concerning preparation of the soil and fencing of the garden, choice of seeds, planting, care and harvesting. It may be encouraging families to attend group meetings on food production and preservation held by home supervisors, or by home economists in other agencies. Processing and storing the food after it is produced is one of the things with which home supervisors spend considerable time. They give countless demonstrations of methods of canning, preserving, and storing fruit, meat, vegetables, and other foods in borrowers' homes each year.

A national study made in 1943 of home food produced by families participating in the FSA program indicated those families had almost doubled their milk production for home use, had stepped up their canned vegetables and fruit from over 100 to 300 quarts per family, and meats and meat fats from 250 to nearly 500 pounds. Such increases make a real contribution to the improved nutrition of farm children.

A home supervisor in a neighbor state recently made a study of several families with farm ownership loans with which they are purchasing their farms. She found that the value of home-produced food amounted to approximately the amount they were able to pay on the loan above their annual scheduled payment. Where the families were large and produced a large amount of the food consumed, the amount of money saved by this activity was, of course, much larger than where the family was small. Thus there seems to be a definite relationship between the home food production program and the ability to pay off debts enabling families to establish an equity in chattels and real estate.

In some areas the Farm Security Administration supervisors have cooperated with medical organizations and with the families in the development of pre-paid medical plans. (Explain if applicable to your state).

One of the satisfactions of working with such families is seeing the changes that have resulted in improved health, and through this change a change in attitude, a change in ability to work -- in fact, in seeing the family which was failing become successful.

There are many things which can be done by the farm families themselves to make the home more safe and comfortable and more attractive. Home supervisors have spent considerable time providing helps of various types which have resulted in families rearranging kitchen and other work space, obtaining better screening, safer steps, better water supply, running water in the house, sanitary privies, improved storage space for food and clothing, repair of furniture, and many other changes which make life on the farm more satisfying and more profitable.

The Farm Security program is but one of several programs which the citizens of this country have seen fit to develop in order to help attain and maintain the family-type farm -- a precious symbol of democracy, which we in America are dedicated to protect.

And speaking of a challenge and of security on the land, I want to say a word about our program of help to returning veterans. They've been fighting for our security, and if they desire to go into farming -- and are fitted for it -- they should have the opportunity. Farm Security's loans and all its other services are available to these returning veterans. Quite a large number of them already have obtained FSA loans -- and an increasingly large number will do so in the future. We want them to feel free to call on our FSA folks at any time.

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(M O R E)

The three short scripts that follow illustrate the news or timely information type of broadcast. Items such as these can be broadcast by you or given to the station to incorporate in one of its regular broadcasts. This is particularly effective for small local stations, which usually are delighted to receive the material.

ACTIVITIES OF COUNTY COMMITTEE

The County Advisory Committee of the Farm Security Administration, met at the FSA offices (place) (date), and reviewed (number) loan applications, and recommended (number). At the same time the Committee studied repayment records on loans now outstanding.

(Name) of (town), the Committee Chairman, said that all of the (number) families whose loan applications were approved needed additional credit to expand food production, and were unable to obtain it from other sources. He said they planned to use the loan funds to buy more cows, re-seed pastures (.....list.....)

In the past (number) months, (last name) said families in (name) County that are participating in the FSA program have repaid \$ _____ on their loans.

"This year repayments are expected to be about as good", (last name) said. "This is true not only because conditions are generally favorable for the farmer but because careful planning by the families, by the FSA Committee, and by the County FSA Supervisors has gone into the making of each loan. Every dollar loaned has been for a productive purpose."

Other members of the Committee are: (name) _____ of (town), (name) of (town), and, alternate, (name) of (town).

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GROUP SERVICES LOANS

Many small and family-type farmers in (name) County can overcome shortages of heavier farm equipment through joint purchase and use of combines, tractor equipment, feed grinders, ensilage cutters and other expensive or scarce machinery, announced (name), County Farm Security Administration supervisor, (address of office and town). Where financing is needed by farmers who plan to use the machine, FSA group service loans are available to those who qualify for FSA assistance.

If neighboring farmers can meet the needs of their farm through joint use of equipment, they not only reduce the cash outlay for the machine, but increase the efficiency of their operations, (last name) said. This is particularly true where labor-saving machinery such as hay balers, manure spreaders, and the more expensive tractor equipment is involved.

Group service loans may also be used for setting up services to provide purebred sires for two or more herds where the cost of individual ownership would be prohibitive. A number of small dairy herds in the county could be greatly improved through purchase of proven or purebred dairy bulls.

(O V E R)

Welding and machinery repair equipment, pressure cookers, and other farm and home items can often be purchased more economically on a group service basis. Group service loans bear three percent interest and are repayable in three to five years.

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FARM PURCHASE LOANS FOR VETERANS

Qualified World War II veterans who want to buy family-size farms will have little trouble getting adequate credit, but may have plenty of trouble finding farms which can be bought at reasonable prices, (Name), County Supervisor for the Farm Security Administration, said today.

(Last name) said that the "G.I. Bill of Rights" makes veterans eligible for Bankhead-Jones Farm ownership loans on the same basis as tenants. These loans are repayable over 40 years at three percent interest.

(Last name) said Congress appropriated \$50,000,000 to Bankhead-Jones loans. Half that amount is earmarked for loans to veterans.

"The veteran's big problem will be to find a farm which can be bought at its long-time earning capacity value," (last name) said. Unless the veteran can find the right farm at the right price adequate credit will do him no good; and it may actually do him harm if more is paid for a farm than it is worth.

The County FSA Supervisor said there are farms for sale, but that prices are inflated. The County FSA Advisory Committee, which (last name) said must approve all farm purchase loans, has indicated it will turn down any application to buy a farm at more than its earning capacity value.

(Last name) said that he and members of the Advisory Committee, all of whom are local farmers, are helping veterans search for good farm purchase opportunities.

"So far the pickings have been mighty slim," (last name) said.

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